

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 06853 151929Z
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 6853

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, SW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEIF LEIFLAND

REF: STATE 302743

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, LEIFLAND (NOTE SPELLING) IS KEY POSITION AT MFA HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH EMBASSY OFFICIERS AND VISITING USG OFFICIALS. WE FEEL COMPLETELY COMFORTABLE IN RAISING AND DISCUSSING WITH LEIFLAND ANY ASPECTS OF SWEDISH POLICY AND US-SWEDISH RELATIONS. THERE ARE NO SUBJECTS WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TABOO BY THE DEPARTMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH LEIFLAND.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS THIS WEEK WITH SEVERAL MFA OFFICERS AND POL COUNS, LETTER RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT LEIFLAND COULD WELL BROACH POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO WASHINGTON EARLY NEXT YEAR BY FOREIGN MINISTER SODER. MRS. SODER IS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE OFFICIAL VISITS TO FOUR SISTER NORDIC COUNTRIES IN FEBRUARY. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GOS MAY WANT TO BEGIN TO STIMULATE OFFICIAL VISITS TO WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW IN 1977. LEIFLAND AND OTHER MFA OFFICIALS REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT QUESTION OF INVITATIONS FOR OFFICIAL VISITS MUST AWAIT INCOMING ADMINISTRATION, BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF LEIFLAND TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON TO PLANT THE IDEA.

3. ANOTHER POSSIBLE MATTER WHICH MAY BE RAISED BY LEIFLAND CONCERNS DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS AND PROCEDURES ON
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RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION UNDER FREEDOM OF

INFORMATION ACT. JAN ELIASSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO
MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL ASTROM, INFORMED POL COUNS ON
DECEMBER 15 THAT MFA SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT PENTAGON
PAPERS DOCUMENTS ATTESTING TO SWEDISH ROLE IN 1966-67
AS CHANNEL FOR PASSING INFORMATION BETWEEN WASHINGTON
AND HANOI COULD BE RELEASED TO PUBLIC UNDER FOI ACT.
MFA WOULD BE CONCERNED EVEN SHOULD SANITIZED VERSION
BE RELEASED SINCE SWEDISH MEDIA WOULD INSIST THAT GOS
FILL IN WHATEVER GAPS THEY MAY DETECT IN THESE
DOCUMENTS. EMBASSY NOT PRIVY TO DETAILS OF THIS
PARTICULAR CASE, BUT URGES DEPARTMENT TO TAKE ABOVE GOS
VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.

4. IN CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR POLITICAL DIVISION, LEIFLAND
BRIEFS MEMBERS OF RIKSDAG FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY
ESTABLISHMENT WEEKLY. EMBASSY SUGGESTS LEIFLAND BE ASKED
TO ASSESS POSSIBILITY FOR INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING
BY GOS OVER NEXT FIVE YEAR PERIOD. ISSUE OF
LEVEL OF DEFENSE BUDGET HAS BEGUN TO BE MATTER OF
NATIONAL DEBATE AND LEIFLAND MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
INSIGHTS HERE.
SMITH

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